Leonard Haywood





Rank: - Able Seaman

Number: - P/JX 167684

Regiment: - Royal Navy H.M.S. Montgomery

Died: - 11 December 1941

Cemetery: - Birstall (St. Peter) Churchyard Extension, Grave 1677

Batley News, 20 Dec 1941 (photo)

Leonard was born in Birstall on 4 November 1918 the eldest son of Ernest and Eva Haywood nee Clegg. He attended Birstall Council School and after leaving school worked as an apprentice butcher in the Central Meat Stores, Birstall, and was a popular member of Birstall Gospel Temperance Society and Birstall Liberal

Club. His sister Audrey, was born in 1923 and Thomas, who was a Sick Berth Attendant stationed in Hampshire, at the time of his brother's death was born in 1920. The family, in 1939 lived at 1, Carr Street, Birstall. Leonard married Eileen Peace Hudson of Cross Bank, Batley in February 1941 at Birstall Parish Church.

Leonard joined the Navy in 1939 and served on torpedo boats and destroyers. A telegram was received from the Commodore of the Naval Barracks, Portsmouth saying he deeply regretted Leonard's death on December 11th as a result of a fall into the docks. His Naval Records show that he died at night, at Greenock, by accidental drowning. His body was brought to Birstall and he was buried at St. Peter's Churchyard on 23 December 1941. He was the 3rd cousin from the Haywood family to lose their lives during the war all losing their lives on the 11th day of different months, Joseph Haywood was torpedoed on December 11th 1940 and Sergeant, Air Gunner William (Bill) Haywood lost his life on 11th February 1941.

He was awarded the 1939-45 Star; 1939-1945 War Medal.

Leonard is remembered with Honour at Batley and Birstall War Memorials.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group